



UNIT 12 | SESSION 3

# SOLOMON'S SIN DIVIDED THE KINGDOM

1 KINGS 10-12

## KEY PASSAGE:

Exodus 34:6-7

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is mercy? Mercy is when God does not give us the punishment that we deserve.

## CHRIST CONNECTION:

King Solomon's sin led to the division of the kingdom. God's people needed a better king. Through David's family, God would send His own Son, Jesus, to be a perfect King over God's people forever. Jesus is greater than Solomon. Jesus brings His people together and leads them back to God.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



## LEADER Bible Study

When you read the description of Solomon’s wealth in 1 Kings 10, it is hard not to have some sense of jealousy about the amount of money and power he had amassed. Solomon is described as having 25 tons of gold come into his possession every year as only a portion of his annual increase of wealth.

Solomon made everything imaginable out of gold and ivory. In fact, he had so much gold that silver lost its value in his kingdom because it was so accessible to the people. He was a man who had anything and everything that one could ever want.

Who wouldn’t want all that Solomon had? Solomon had anything a person could ever want in terms of both possessions and wisdom. But after his reign of 40 years came to an end, Solomon’s life ended too. He was buried alongside his ancestors, and carried none of his riches with him.

Psalm 50:10 says, “Every animal of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.” The currency of the days of Asaph, writer of Psalm 50, was animals. And for God to describe Himself as the owner of the livestock roaming on the earth was for God to say that He owns it all. In the same way that the cattle on a thousand hills represents unimaginable wealth, we could never

calculate the wealth and richness of God.

When we consider the desirable wealth of Solomon, we ought to be reminded of the unimaginable wealth of God. He is a good God who doesn’t gather for Himself and leave the leftovers to His kids; rather, God gives to His kids out of His abundance that we too might enjoy His wealth of grace and mercy both now and in eternity.

If you’re looking for wealth, look no further than the cross. The cross is where we find the evidence of God’s gracious hand providing for His kids and where we look to find access to His generous heart for eternity.

### PLACES TO KNOW

**Israel:** The Northern Kingdom formed when Jeroboam led the northern tribes to separate from the southern tribes

**Judah:** The Southern Kingdom ruled by Solomon’s son Rehoboam



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** “What is something you can never get enough of? Maybe it is a sport, an activity, food, or something else.”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Divided Hearts” on the activity page.

**SAY** “There are many things in this world that want our attention. Those things become idols when we give them more importance than we give God. They divide our hearts from Him.”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### OPTION 1: DIVIDED OPINIONS



Before class, place a tape line down the middle of the classroom. Line up kids on that line. Call out two things, assigning each example to a side of the room. Ask the kids to pick their favorite and choose a side.

- Hot Dog or Hamburger
- Soda or Lemonade
- Summer or Winter
- Mountains or Beach
- Football or Baseball
- Ice Cream or Cake
- Ketchup or Mustard
- Sleeping in or Getting up early
- Reading a book or Watching a movie
- Worship chorus or Hymn

**SAY** “These questions divided the room. Everyone chose a side, but no one could be on both sides. Similarly, our hearts are divided when we worship things other than God. We were made to love God with all of our hearts.”

#### OPTION 2: IDOLS FALL

Brainstorm some past and present-day idols with the kids. Form groups of three to four kids. Give each group a set of wooden stacking blocks and explain that the block tower is like an idol people built to worship. Instruct kids to remove one block at a time from their tower, until the tower falls. If you have any block towers standing at the end of the time, walk by and knock them over.

**SAY** “All of the idols fell. They were not meant to stand. God wants us to worship Him alone, and He takes it very seriously when we turn our hearts toward other things.”





LEARN

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LEARN the Bible Story

#### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 10–12. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Solomon’s Sin Divided the Kingdom.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

#### SOLOMON’S SIN DIVIDED THE KINGDOM

“**King Solomon was wiser and richer than any other king on earth. He loved God and God blessed him, but Solomon wanted more.** He had many wives from different nations. Before long, Solomon’s wives were able to turn him away from God. Solomon began to worship the false gods that his wives worshiped. **He built altars on a hill near Jerusalem to worship idols. Then the people in Israel began to worship the false gods too.**

**When this happened, God was angry. God said to Solomon, “Since you have done this, I will take the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. You will be king the rest of your life, but when your son becomes king, he will lose everything except for one tribe.” And that is exactly what happened.**

**Solomon had a servant named Jeroboam** (JER uh BOH uhm). **One day, a prophet named Ahijah** (uh HIGH juh) met Jeroboam as he was coming down the road. Ahijah took off his coat and tore it into 12 pieces.

Ahijah **told Jeroboam, “Take 10 pieces for yourself. God is going to take the kingdom of Israel away from Solomon. He will let Solomon and his family keep a small part, but you will get the bigger part—10 tribes.”**

Ahijah said God was going to punish King David’s descendants for their unfaithfulness, but their punishment would not last forever.

**When Solomon died, his son Rehoboam** (REE huh BOH uhm) **became king. The people did not want to serve a king like Rehoboam because he treated them so harshly, so they made Jeroboam king. The kingdom of Israel was now divided. Jeroboam ruled over the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Solomon’s son only ruled over the Southern Kingdom of Judah.**

Christ Connection: King Solomon’s sin led to the division of the kingdom. God’s people needed a better king. Through David’s family, God would send His own Son, Jesus, to be a perfect King over God’s people forever. Jesus is greater than Solomon. Jesus brings His people together and leads them back to God. ”

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Use fabric:** Using a sheet of paper or fabric, pause at different points in telling the story and rip the fabric. By the end of the story make sure to have 12 pieces.

**Make a scene:** Add some theater to your storytelling by assigning each part to a kid. Invite them to act out each scene as you share the story.

## Small Group Discussion/Questions

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

#### 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ Solomon allowed his heart to worship false gods. And his sin divided the kingdom. God takes sin seriously. Sin separates us from God and always has consequences. Solomon’s sin suffered a consequence: God divided the kingdom.

What led to Solomon’s heart being turned away from loving only God? Look at 1 Kings 11:4. [Choose a volunteer to read 1 Kings 11:4.] Not only did Solomon have lots of gold, but he also had many wives. He married women from tribes that the Lord told the Israelites not to marry. Then his wives began to pull him away from God. Solomon’s wives worshiped idols and their idolatry influenced Solomon. His heart did not fully love the Lord. Think about the people you surround yourself with. Do they encourage you to worship God, or do they pull you in other directions?

When did God divide the kingdom? Look at 1 Kings 11:11-13. [Choose a volunteer to read 1 Kings 11:11-13.] Because of His promise to David, God would show mercy to Solomon. The Lord would not divide the kingdom during Solomon’s reign. However, after Solomon’s reign, God would split the kingdom and leave only one tribe to David’s family. ”

#### 3 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “ Sin is serious. King Solomon’s sin led to the division of the kingdom. God’s people needed a better king. Through David’s family, God would send His own Son, Jesus, to be a perfect King over God’s people forever. Jesus is greater than Solomon. Jesus brings His people together and leads them back to God. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

#### 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 12, Session 3” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How could Solomon’s sin lead to the division of the kingdom if Jesus takes the penalty for our sin? Doesn’t trusting in Jesus take away the consequences of sin?
2. How does knowing that sin can have earthly consequences change the way you think about sin?

#### 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

**SAY** “ Victor and Ludmila Moura left their home in Brazil because they have compassion for Brazilians in the United States who don’t know Jesus. They moved to Boston, Massachusetts. Let’s learn a little more about why Boston needs missionaries. ”

Play the missions video.

| **SAY** “ Six million people live in Boston, and many don’t know Jesus or attend church. Some have